

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8, 11-13, 16 and 19-26 are pending with claims 21-26 currently withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5, 8, 11-13, 16, 19 and 20 have been amended. Further, claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17 and 18 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter found therein.

In paragraph 7, on page 6 of the Office Action, claims 6, 9, 14 and 17 were rejected but indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 17 and claims 6, 9, 14 and 17 canceled to avoid duplicate claiming. Further, claim 1 has been amended responsive to the rejection as discussed below. Thus, claim 1 and claims 2-5, 8, 11-13, 16, 19 and 20 depending therefrom should be allowable.

In paragraph 2, on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 7, 10, 15, 18 and 21-26 were finally withdrawn from consideration. As claims 7, 10, 15 and 18 have been canceled, Applicants preserve the right to pursue those claims in a divisional application.

With respect to claims 21-26, it is respectfully requested they be rejoined as they too are directed to the structure substantially as found in Figs. 2 and 3 which is the same structure that makes up the subject matter of claim 1. Thus, claims 21-26 are drawn to the same species and should be considered.

In paragraph 5, on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specific language in claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 12, 14, 17 and 20 was identified as forming the basis for the rejection.

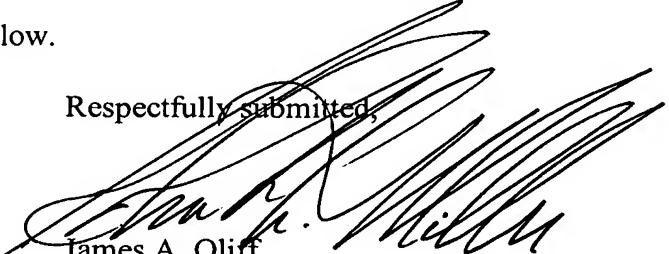
Although Applicants disagree with the Office Action's contention that "immovably fixed" are words of relative meaning or words of degree, the claims have been amended to avoid such language. However, "immovable" is defined as "incapable of being moved" or "incapable of movement" or "not capable of alteration" and "fixed" is defined as "to place or fasten securely", "to make fast to; or attach", "to put into a stable or unalterable form", both words defined in the American Heritage Dictionary, 2nd College Edition. When taken in conjunction with the specification, which addresses mounting via bolts into threaded receptacles, there is no relative meaning to these terms. The words in and of themselves have very well defined meanings and the meanings are totally consistent with the description in the specification. Thus, Applicants submit that these amendments are not made for the purposes of patentability, rather are made solely to expedite prosecution as the expression "immovably mounted" is now used, is consistent with the specification, and has substantially the same meaning as "fixed" in that "mounted" is defined as "to fix securely to a support" which is exactly what is stated in the specification. As Applicants' amendments and comments are responsive to the rejection, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 6, on page 5 of the Office Action, claims 1-5, 8, 11-13, 16, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takenaka et al., JP No. 2001-119898 (Takenaka) in view of Yamada, JP 2000-032607. The rejection has been rendered moot by the amendment of claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 17.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-5, 8, 11-13, 16, 19, 20 and the rejoinder and allowance of claims 21-26, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: May 26, 2006

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